SUBJECT No. 69.

Use of cow-dung as fuel.

Mr. T. Narasinga Rao, North Mysore Native Planters' Association.

Summary of discussion.—Cow-dung is now largely used as fuel for want of cheap firewood. This is a great loss of valuable manure. The lands are becoming poorer and poorer as they are cultivated without manure. It is suggested that plantations may be raised wherever possible to supply the ryots with cheap firewood, leaves for manure, and timber for agricultural purposes.

Reply of Government.—It will be long before the ryots will give up entirely the use of cow-dung as fuel and they should be educated to do so. The Revenue Commissioner is considering the question of granting special concessions to ryots who undertake to plant trees on *gomâl* as well as assessed lands for providing fuel and leaf manure, and his proposals are awaited.

SUBJECT No. 70.

Reduction of interest on Land Improvement Loans.

Mr. D. S. Hanumantha Rao, Devanhalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The increase of the rate of interest on Land Improvement Loans from 3 per cent as per Circular No. 183, dated 21st July 1891, to 5 per cent as per Circular No. 4319, dated 2nd January 1909, is discouraging to the ryots who wish to apply for such loans. The rate may be reduced again to 3 per cent.

Reply of Government.—The rules were recently introduced and cannot be altered in the way suggested.

SUBJECT No. 71.

Extension of the scope of resurvey and settlement.

(1) Mr. D. Venkataramaiya, Bangalore City Municipality.

(2) (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Messrs. Seshadri Iyengar, Tumkur Municipality; Srikantaiya, Maddagiri Taluk; Hutchvire Gowda Gubbi Taluk; and Ugre Gowda, Sira Taluk.

(b) Mr. B. Gangiah, Mulbagal Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) The scope of the resurvey and settlement may be extended to include the revision of *atchkat* under the existing tanks, and the reduction of wet and garden assessments under major and minor tanks based on the precarious nature of the cultivation of the lands irrigated by such sources.

(2) The wet and garden lands under tanks are greatly in excess of the irrigating capacity of the tanks. And further many tanks have not filled for 10 or 15 years.

(*a*) The capacity of such tanks must be increased or,

(*b*) A proportionate extent of the *atchkat* should be reduced to dry assessment.

(*c*) In years of good rainfall when tanks may fill once or twice, these dry lands may be supplied with water and water-rate levied thereon, remission of half *kandayam* being granted when a tank does not fill and there is no cultivation below.

The forecasts made as to the lands likely to be irrigated by a tank when its restoration was undertaken, are often found to be incorrect. The tanks are also being gradually silted up and the sources of their supply are interfered with. The *atchkats* therefore require constant revision. Even during the resurvey the Survey Department proceeds upon the *atchkats* as orginally calculated

with the result that several of the lands classed as wet are incapable of receiving a sufficient supply of water even in ordinary seasons.

Mr. C. Seshadri Iyengar, Tumkur Municipality.—The original rates are guaranteed only for 30 years, and if at the time of revision it is found that any lands cannot be supplied with water they should be classed as dry. The consent of the occupant to the conversion of the land to a lower class should not be considered to be necessary. By adhering to the original classification, the rights of others who may have a better title to the supply of water from the situation of their lands will be affected. Where any land is found to receive less water than what it used to get at the time of the original settlement, the assessment should be reduced.

Mr. Anniah Pandit, Mysore District Board.—If lands which cannot get a proper supply of water are kept on as wet there are likely to be constant disputes.

Mr. M. K. Krishnamurti Rao, Magadi Taluk.—In the case of wet lands the rates should not be guaranteed for 30 years. As the water-supply is liable to frequent fluctuation, the water rate should be made to vary with it.

Mr. Srinivasa Murti, Hassan Taluk.—The water-supply itself should be improved and the *atchkats* should not be reduced. When a land has once been classed as wet it is inequitable to convert it into dry without making any attempt to improve its water-supply and compensating the owner for the reduction of profit due to the failure of water.

Mr. Adappa, Tumkur Taluk.—It is not true that the ryots oppose the conversion of land from wet to dry. Where they are convinced that it is impossible to supply a land with water they readily consent to its being classed as dry. This has happened recently under the Tumkur tank. What they are afraid of is that lands which can receive water may by improper means be brought under dry and attempts to improve irrigation given up.

Mr. Gangaiah, Mulbagal Taluk.—It is necessary to examine all irrigation works thoroughly and take immediate steps for their improvement. The deterioration of irrigation works is a subject of serious complaint everywhere.

Reply of Government.—It is not possible to issue any general instructions applicable to all cases in matters of this kind. The difficulties urged are borne in mind in connection with each settlement and every endeavour is being made to mitigate the hardships complained of. The subjects will also be referred to the Revenue Commissioner and the Superintendent of Revenue Survey and Settlement.